

to serve as the basis in tissue banking in view of international harmonisation and further quality-oriented development in the area. This question can however be answered with an unequivocal yes. In the first phase, the auditing and certification must not be seen as the highest goal. Then, the other advantages move more clearly to the fore. These include coming into a harmonised “language” in regard to quality assurance and quality management in tissue banking. Then, one is in a position to see the realisation of individual important elements as a positive result. The most important aspect of a consensus in tissue banking would then be the acceptance of the principles of the ISO standard series and the selective, step-by-step realisation of individual elements, so that every tissue bank, wherever it is located, could take part in the harmonisation.

4. Acknowledgement

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